CLAIMS –

1. An oral drug delivery system comprising –
    a. a core comprising an active ingredient composition comprising at least one active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, and
    b. a coating surrounding the core,

    wherein the drug delivery system is designed in a manner such that the coating is reliably removed fully or partially from one or more preselected surfaces of the system upon contact with an aqueous environment, provided further that the coating is not removed from at least one of the surfaces.
2. An oral drug delivery system comprising -
    a. a core comprising an active ingredient composition comprising at least one active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, and
    b. a coating surrounding the core,

    wherein the oral drug delivery system is in the form of a coated tablet and includes a design feature such that the coating is removed partially or fully from one or more of the tablet surfaces upon contact with an aqueous environment, further wherein the design feature is such that it enables the selection of any of the tablet surface or surfaces from which the coating is desired to be partially or fully removed, provided further that the coating is not removed from at least one of the surfaces.
3. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 2 wherein the design feature is included in the coating or the core or both.
4. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the design feature is that the coating on selected surface or surfaces of the tablet is selected from defective coatings and reactive coatings.
5. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the design feature is that the coating on selected surface or surfaces of the tablet includes one or more passageways in the coating on the selected surfaces.
6. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 3 wherein the design feature is that the core comprises a composition selected from a swellable composition and a reactive core composition.
7. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 6 wherein the design feature is located in the immediate vicinity of one or more selected surfaces of the tablet.
8. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the coating is impermeable to the active ingredient.

9. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active ingredient composition is a swellable composition.

10. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the core comprises an active ingredient composition and a swellable composition.

11. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the active ingredient composition is present as one or more layers and the swellable composition is present as one or more layers.

12. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 11, wherein the active ingredient present in the different layers may be the same or different.

13. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the active ingredient composition is a controlled release composition.

14. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 11, wherein one active ingredient composition is a rapid releasing composition and the second active ingredient composition containing the same active ingredient as the first active ingredient composition is a controlled release composition.

15. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the swellable composition comprises a swelling agent.

16. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the swelling agent is selected from the group comprising a swellable excipient, a gas generating agent and mixtures thereof.

17. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the swellable composition comprises wicking agents.

18. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the swellable composition comprises osmogents.

19. An oral controlled drug delivery system comprising –

a. a core comprising an active ingredient composition comprising at least one active ingredient and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients,

b. a coating surrounding the core, and

c. a passageway in the coating,

wherein the oral drug delivery system is designed in a manner such that the coating is removed partially upon contact of the system with an aqueous environment allowing the active ingredient release to occur from the partially exposed surface.

20. An oral drug delivery system comprising -

a. a core comprising an active ingredient composition comprising at least one active ingredient and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and

b. a coating surrounding the core,

wherein the oral drug delivery system has only one surface and the system is designed in a manner such that the coating is removed partially from the surface upon contact of the system with an aqueous environment.

21. An oral drug delivery system comprising -

a. a core comprising an active ingredient composition comprising at least one active ingredient and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and

b. a coating surrounding the core

wherein the oral drug delivery system has at least two surfaces and is designed in a manner such that the coating is removed partially from one of the surfaces when the oral drug delivery system contacts an aqueous environment, and further wherein the coating is removed from the surface different from the one having the least surface area.

22. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the drug release is initiated without a substantial delay after the oral drug delivery system contacts an aqueous environment.

23. An oral drug delivery system as claimed in claim 1 further comprising an outer coating of a pH-dependent polymer.

24. A method of isolating an active ingredient from its environment by providing an oral drug delivery system comprising -

a. a core comprising an active ingredient composition comprising at least one active ingredient and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, and

b. a coating surrounding the core

wherein the system has a design feature such that upon contact with an aqueous environment the coating ruptures to provide instant and rapid release of the active ingredient.